AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A thermal transfer receiving sheet comprising a sheet-like support having, sequentially formed on at least one surface thereof, a hollow particle-containing intermediate layer and an image receiving layer, wherein said hollow particles have an average particle diameter of 0.2 to 35 μm and a hollow percentage by volume of 30 to 97% and the printing smoothness (Rp value) on the surface of said thermal transfer receiving sheet, as measured by using a Microtopograph under an applied pressure of 0.1 MPa 10 milli-seconds after the initiation of pressure application, is 1.5 μm or less, wherein said intermediate layer comprises two kinds of hollow particles A and B differing in the average particle diameter and the average particle diameters L_A (μm) and L_B (μm) of respective hollow particles satisfy all of the following relational formulae (1) to (3):

$$L_A = 2 \text{ to } 35\ \mu m \qquad (1)$$

$$L_B = 0.2 \text{ to } 9\ \mu m \qquad (2)$$

$$0.05 < L_B/L_A < 0.4 \qquad (3)$$

<u>and wherein the ratio of the mass of hollow particles A (W_A) and that of hollow particles B (W_B) included in said intermediate layer satisfies the following relational formula (4):</u>

$$\underline{W_B/W_A = 0.14 \text{ to } 1 \qquad (4)}.$$

Claim 2 (Original): The thermal transfer receiving sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thickness of said intermediate layer is from 20 to 90 μm.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): The thermal transfer receiving sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratio by mass of all hollow particles to the entire solid content mass of said intermediate layer is from 30 to 75% by mass.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The thermal transfer receiving sheet as claimed in claim 1, which has a barrier layer stacked between said intermediate layer and said image receiving layer.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): The thermal transfer receiving sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sheet-like support is a sheet-like support mainly comprising a cellulose pulp.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): The thermal transfer receiving sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein a back surface layer containing at least a polymer resin and an organic and/or inorganic fine particles is provided on the side of said sheet-like support in which the image receiving layer is not provided.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): The thermal transfer receiving sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compressive modulus of elasticity, based on JIS K 7220, of said thermal transfer receiving sheet is 30 MPa or less.

Claim 13 (Previously presented) A method for producing a thermal transfer receiving sheet comprising a sheet-like support having sequentially formed on at least one surface thereof a hollow particle-containing intermediate layer and an image receiving layer, the method comprising the steps of, after providing said intermediate layer by coating an intermediate layer coating solution comprising hollow particles having an average particle diameter of 0.2 to 35 μm and a hollow percentage by volume of 30 to 97% on at least one surface of said sheet-like support and drying it and/or after providing said image receiving layer on the intermediate layer, wherein said intermediate layer comprises two kinds of hollow particles A and B differing in the average particle diameter and the average particle diameters L_A (μm) and L_B (μm) of respective hollow particles satisfy all of the following relational formulae (1) to (3):

$$L_A = 2 \text{ to } 35\ \mu\text{m} \qquad (1)$$

$$L_B = 0.2 \text{ to } 9\ \mu\text{m} \qquad (2)$$

$$0.05 < L_B/L_A < 0.4 \qquad (3),$$

applying a smoothing treatment step of passing the sheet through a nip part having a pair of rolls consisting of a heating roll and a press roll so that the printing smoothness (Rp value) on the surface of said thermal transfer receiving sheet, as measured by using Microtopograph under an applied pressure of 0.1 MPa 10 milli-seconds after the initiation of pressure application, can be 1.5 μm or less.

Claim 14 (Original): The method for producing a thermal transfer receiving sheet, as claimed in claim 13, which further comprises a thickness restoring treatment step of, after said smoothing

treatment step, subsequently heating the thermal transfer receiving sheet by contacting the sheet surface with a heating roll in a pressure-released state.